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PARIS, MARCH 1 (REUTERS)-FRENCH COUNTER-ESPIONAGE OFFICIAL MARCEL LEROY CLAIMED TODAY HIS SUPERIORS SHOWED NO INTEREST WHEN HE TOLD THEM ABOUT THE PLOT TO KIDNAP

MOROCCAN OPPOSITION LEADER MENDI BEN BARKA, JUSTICE SOURCES SAID.

LEROY, ALSO KNOWN AS FINVILLE, FACED INTERROGATION TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED FEB. 10 AND CHARGED WITH FAILING TO REPORT WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE BEN BARKA AFFAIR.

THE SOURCES SAID LEROY TOLD THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, JUDGE LOUIS ZOLLINGER, HE PASSED ON TO HIS SUPERIORS INFORMATION ON THE PLOT RECEIVED FROM A SUBORDINATE, ANTOINE LOPEZ, WHO IS BEING HELD ON CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN THE KIDNAPING LAST OCTOBER.

BUT HE SAID HIS SUPERIORS PLAYED THE MATTER DOWN AND GAVE HIM NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTER.

K ACCORDING TO A RECENT INVESTIGATION BY COUNTER-ESPIONAGE OFFICIALS, LEROY RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM LOPEZ ON THE DAY OF THE KIDNAPING WHICH COULD HAVE AVERTED IT.

JRS 3.55P